



**Statement by Ambassador Khusrav Noziri,
Secretary General of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO)
for High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
9 July 2024, New York**

**Excellency Ms. Paula Narváez, President of the Economic and Social Council,
Honourable Ministers,
Distinguished Heads of Delegations,
Eminent Participants,**

It is a profound honour for me to represent the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) at this significant event.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Economic and Social Council for organizing this important gathering.

Excellencies,

In recent years, governments, regional and international organizations and many other groups around the world have been working together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As an intergovernmental regional economic forum, the ECO adopted "sustainability" as a core principle in its Vision 2025, aligning with United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

ECO has been partnering with international and regional organizations to achieve SDGs in our region. Over the past decade, we have actively participated in numerous national, regional and international SDG events. Our regional cooperation priorities include sharing best practices through platforms like the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and promoting effective regional initiatives.

Overall, ECO countries are making progress in achieving the SDGs. Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan are among the region's top performers, yet they rank 48th and 53rd globally. This indicates that while we are advancing, significant challenges remain in achieving the SDGs in the ECO region.

Therefore, we recognize the critical importance of regional cooperation in achieving SDGs. To this end, we have established a High-Level Sustainable

Development Working Group (HLSDWG) tasked with preparing an Action Plan to enhance Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) in the ECO region.

We will host the First ECO Forum on Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan this year. This Forum aims to convene national government officials, experts on the 2030 Agenda and representatives from regional and international organizations, including the United Nations, civil society and the private sector. Furthermore, preparing SDGs Performance Index for the Region is an ongoing project to be finalized till the end of 2024.

I believe achieving the SDGs by 2030 should focus on implementing policies and investments that drive these transformations. These efforts will act as catalysts to advance progress across various SDG areas, such as energy, digitalization, education, social protection and food security.

In conclusion, I am certain that this Forum, focused on advancing the 2030 Agenda and ending global poverty, will play a pivotal role.

I extend my sincere gratitude to the organizers for hosting this important event, both on behalf of my institution and personally.

Thank you.